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Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 A-01
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----------093556 120629Z /20
O 111545Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 977
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2073

FROM LOW

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALISBURY VISIT

1. GRAHAM AND I DISCUSSED ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE VISIT BY VANCE, OWEN AND PARTY TO SALISBURY, AND I REVIEWED THE MATTER WITH COMMUNICATIONS, SECURITY, ADMINISTRATION AND ICA IN PRETORIA.

2. WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT (A) OWEN AND VANCE DO NOT PLAN TO STAY OVERNIGHT IN SALISBURY, (B) THEY WILL BE LEAVING FROM DAR, AND (C) WE WOULD USE MIRIMBA HOUSE (FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND PRESENTLY USED BY BRITISH DIPLOMATIC OFFICER RESIDENT IN SALISBURY). AS HEADQUARTERS, RATHER THAN HOTEL.

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3. WE PROJECT THREE HOURS FLIGHT TIME FROM DAR WITH 0830 ARRIVAL, 10 MINUTES AT THE AIRPORT, 15 MINUTES TRAVEL TO MEETING SITE.

4. THERE IS SOME QUESTION OVER WHERE THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD. RHODESIAN PREFERENCE MILTON BUILDING, WHICH IS THE CABINET ROOM FOR THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. OWEN DOES NOT LIKE THIS, AND, ON THE OCCASION OF OUR SEPTEMBER 1 VISIT,

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PERSUADED THEM TO HOLD THE MEETING IN INDEPENDENCE HOUSE, WHICH IS SMITH'S RESIDENCE. THAT WORKED OUT QUITE WELL; IT IS COMFORTABLE AND LARGE ENOUGH FOR THE TWO PARTIES. GRAHAM SUGGESTED THE SAME ARRANGEMENT WITH GAYLARD WHO SAID HE WOULD CHECK IT WITH SMITH. RHODESIANS TAKE THE POINT OF VIEW THAT, IF WE ARE COMING TO SALISBURY, WE SHOULD ACCEPT THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR WHERE TO MEET.

5. THERE WILL PRESUMABLY BE A MORNING MEETING; FOLLOWED BY LUNCH, WE WOULD ASSUME AT MIRIMBA HOUSE, WHICH IS ABOUT 15 MINUTES FROM EITHER MILTON BUILDING OR INDEPENDENCE HOUSE. AFTERNOON MEETING WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE THE SAME LOCATION.

6. I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND ANY OTHER MEETINGS IN SALISBURY, THOUGH DEPARTMENT COULD CONSIDER A MEETING WITH MKOMO'S VICE PRESIDENT, CHINAMANO. THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO ME TO BE NECESSARY SINCE WE WILL HAVE MET ON PREVIOUS DAY WITH NKOMO. OTHER ALTERNATIVES MIGHT BE A MEETING WITH THE LIBERAL WHITE PARTY, NUF. SINCE, HOWEVER, IT HAS NO REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT AND IS WITHOUT MUCH INFLUENCE, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY IN SUCH A SHORT VISIT.

7. SECRETARY VANCE WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH COULD BE DONE AT MIRIMBA HOUSE FOLLOWING THE SECOND MEETING, IF THERE IS ONE.
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8. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH EMBASSY PRETORIA. THE BRITISH OFFICER IN SALISBURY, FRASER WILSON, WILL BE CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE ON THE BRITISH SIDE FOR THESE ARRANGEMENTS. HE IS VERY COMPETENT.

9. IF DEPARTURE IS LATE IN THE EVENING, THE PARTY MAY WANT TO CONSIDER TRAVELLING TO LUSAKA OR NAIROBI. NAIROBI HAS MUCH BETTER FACILITIES AND COULD HANDLE THE PARTY MORE EASILY. NAIROBI IS A THREE-HOUR TRIP (LUSAKA, ONE HOUR).
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